



Read to Me News

From Your Public Library & Idaho's Read to Me Program

Babies determine shapes, objects at early age

Did you know that everyday objects around the house are learning tools for your baby? Babies are trying to make sense of their world, and one way they do this is to look, taste, listen to and feel objects. This helps them sort the objects into categories (example: round objects, soft objects) and tell one object from another (example: a blanket is different from a ball).

Researcher Teresa Wilcox, a psychologist from Texas A & M University says, "There is a lot going on in the heads of babies - probably more than most people think." She studies the way babies think about and interact with their physical world. She is examining how and when babies begin to learn about objects.

According to Wilcox's research, babies recognize objects based on a mental picture they form. These mental pictures use the object's characteristics and features. They tend to pay attention to certain features more than others, depending on the age of the baby. Babies as young as four months old use size and shape to recognize objects. Later they use color and pattern to help them tell objects apart.

How does this relate to early literacy? For babies, learning about shapes is the first stage of letter recognition. Talking and playing with shapes with your children is part of the learning experience. You might say, "Feel this big ball. It is round!" Later, talking about letters and the sounds they make and involving your child in learning will help them recognize individual letters.



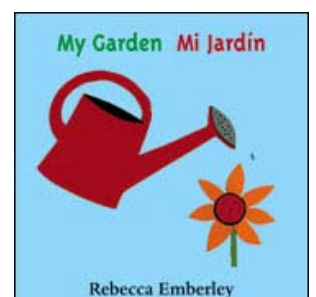
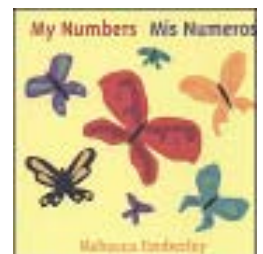
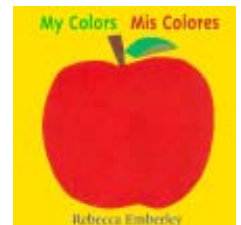
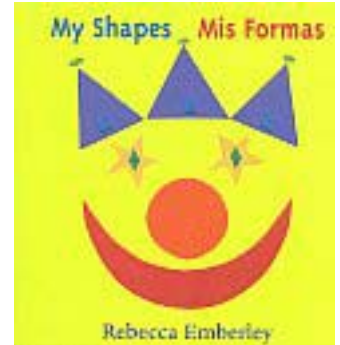
Book of the Month

My Shapes/ Mis Formas, by Rebecca Emberley

This great first bilingual word and picture book will help children learn about shapes. The simple bright pictures are ideal for infants and toddlers. It's fun to talk about the colors of the shapes too while you're reading and talking about it to your child.

Rebecca Emberley is the author and illustrator of many books for young people and has written a whole series of bilingual board books similar to *My Colors*. Ask your librarian for more titles by her. They include:

- *My Numbers/ Mis Numeros*
- *My Animals/ Mis Animales*
- *My Food/ Mi Comida*
- *My Clothes/ Mi Ropa*
- *My Shapes/ Mis Formas*
- *My Opposites/ Mis Opuestos*
- *My Toys/ Mis Juguetes*
- *My School/ Mi Escuela*
- *My Garden/ Mi Jardin*
- *My Room/ Mi Cuarto*
- *My City/ Mi Ciudad*



More Fun with Shapes and Letters!

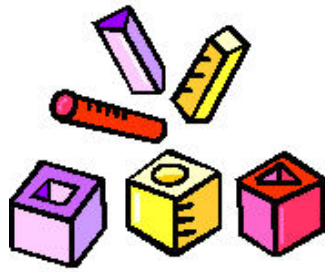
Let your child play with blocks that have shapes and letters on them.

Shape sorters, balls, boxes, magnetic letters, and books about shapes and the alphabet are fun to explore together.

Point out and name shapes and letters when reading or looking at books, signs, or labels.

Encourage your child to make shapes and letters with clay, wet spaghetti noodles, or form the shapes with their bodies or other objects. Trace shapes and letters in salt, sugar, sand, hair gel, shaving cream, etc.

Recognize that children learn about shapes and letters at different ages and rates. Avoid "drilling" children on shapes and letters. Have fun with it.



Rhymes of the Month

Shoe the Little Horse

Shoe the little horse

Pat bottom of left foot

Shoe the little mare

Pat bottom of right foot

Here a nail

Gently tickle left foot

There a nail

Gently tickle right foot

But pony goes bare.

Wiggle both feet



Ten Little Fingers

Ten little fingers

Wiggle baby's fingers

Dance and play.

Ten little fingers

Wiggle all day.

Ten little toes

Wiggle baby's toes

Dance and play

Ten little toes

Wiggle all day.

Song of the Month

Rock-a-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby,

On the tree top,

When the wind blows,

The cradle will rock.

When the bough breaks,

the cradle will fall,

And down will come baby,

Cradle and all.



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